

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 017283
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S/S-O:SVALERGA

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 017283

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, WA, SF, UN, US

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: PRESS REPORTS ON POSSIBLE FOREIGN
MINISTERS MEETING

REF: A) CAPE TOWN 73 (NOTAL); B) PRETORIA 391 (NOTAL)
C) CAPE TOWN 70 (NOTAL)

1. WE ARE DISTURBED AT EVIDENCE THAT A CURRENT
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INITIATIVE WHICH THE CONTACT GROUP SOUGHT TO DEVELOP
TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVE PROXIMITY TALKS WAS PREMATURELY
CONVEYED TO SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, AND LEAKED IN
DETAIL TO THE PRESS. WHILE WE DO NOT WISH TO ENGAGE
IN FINGER-POINTING, SUCH A BREACH OF CONFIDENCE FROM
THE CONTACT GROUP IS ESPECIALLY SERIOUS BECAUSE IT
RELATES TO A MAJOR EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE NAMIBIA

PROBLEM, INVOLVES THE PERSONAL PLANS AND SCHEDULES OF FIVE WESTERN FOREIGN MINISTERS, AND ADVERSELY AFFECTS THE CREDIBILITY OF THE CONTACT GROUP AS A WHOLE.

2. FOR BONN, LONDON, PARIS, OTTAWA: AT SENIOR LEVEL, YOU SHOULD COMMENT ALONG THE LINES OF PARA 1. YOU SHOULD STRESS IN PARTICULAR THE NEED TO MAINTAIN SECURITY IN CONNECTION WITH PLANS OF WESTERN FOREIGN

MINISTERS AND WITH RESPECT TO THE TEXT OF THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL.

3. FOR LONDON: YOU SHOULD ADD THAT AMBASSADOR SCOTT'S PREMATURE DISCLOSURE TO BOTHA HAS ALLOWED THE SOUTH AFRICANS, PRESUMABLY THROUGH PRESS BACKGROUNDER, TO CONTINUE EFFORTS AT SOWING DISSENSION BETWEEN CONTACT GROUP MEMBERS (SEE IN PARTICULAR REF C) AND PROMOTING SWAPO'S EXCEEDINGLY DAMAGING SUSPICION OF CONTACT GROUP OBJECTIVES.

4. FOR PRETORIA: YOU SHOULD TAKE OCCASION TO MAKE SIMILAR POINTS TO APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF CONTACT GROUP. IN ADDITION, YOU SHOULD FIND EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO MENTION TO BOTHA IN STRONGEST TERMS THE ESSENTIALITY ON EVE OF PROXIMITY TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MAINTAIN STRICTEST CONFIDENTIALITY. THIS WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT WITH TEXT OF CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL ONCE IT IS DELIVERED TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS. WE WOULD VIEW ANY PREMATURE OR BIASED DISCLOSURE OF ALL OR PART OF THAT PROPOSAL AS AN ACT OF BAD FAITH ON SOUTH AFRICA'S PART.

5. FOR USUN: YOU SHOULD MAKE APPROPRIATE PRESENTATION TO MEMBERS OF CONTACT GROUP ON BASIS OF FOREGOING.

CHRISTOPHER

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